DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY F Schmelzer DATE 7/2/85
DOS ☐ or XGDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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EXCISE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 11, 1978

Dear Jack:

I am attaching a letter sent to John Sparkman on the submission of the Middle East arms sales proposal. As you will see we are withholding the submission until the 26th to alleviate the Committee's back-log problem.

I am confident that the Committee will have a useful discussion with Warren Christopher if you feel a formal consultation is necessary before the submission, and if I have not returned to Washington by that time. I would very much appreciate your understanding on this Jack. You can be assured that I will be available upon my return for informal meetings or testimony before the Committee.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Attachment - As stated

The Honorable
Jacob K. Javits,
United States Senate.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1978

Dear Mr. Chairman:

You will recall that the President advised the Committee that he would submit the formal notifications on the proposed Middle East aircraft sales after the completion of the debate on the Panama Canal Treaty. The vote on that Treaty has now been scheduled for April 18. While there are compelling policy reasons to submit the notifications as soon as possible, we are aware that your sustained efforts to gain Senate approval of the Panama Canal Treaties have contributed to a backlog of Committee work. In an effort to continue our close cooperation with the Committee on this proposal, we will withhold submission of the notifications on the aircraft proposals until April 26.

As you know, we have tried to hold strictly to the principle that the 30-day period within which these controversial cases are considered should not coincide with a recess period. Therefore, I am sure you share my view that we should not delay submission of the formal notifications to the point where the period for their consideration would run into the Congress's Memorial Day recess starting on May 27. I am confident that you will agree that April 26 is the optimum date for this submission for both procedural and foreign policy reasons.

I will be leaving tomorrow for an extended trip to Africa and the Soviet Union and it may not be possible to consult formally with the Committee prior to April 26. Nevertheless, we have had the opportunity to discuss the question of timing on an informal basis both at the White House and in my meeting with you and other Committee Members last evening. I understand that our willingness to withhold the submission until April 26 will satisfy the altogether legitimate concerns you have about the Committee's workload. Since it is possible that I will

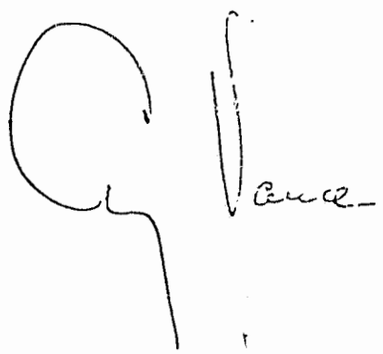
The Honorable
John Sparkman, Chairman,
Committee on Foreign Relations,
United States Senate.

not return to the country until April 28, I hope that you will accept my suggestion that I send a representative to consult with the Committee prior to the submission of the formal notification. If I am able to return prior to April 26, I will be pleased to meet with the Committee at that time.

We have understood fully the desire of Members of Congress to have adequate time to give careful consideration to the issues raised by this important proposal. It was for this reason that we have assured that Congress will have substantially more than 50 days normally provided for arms sales proposals.

Since the February 14 announcement of our intention to propose these sales to Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, the Administration has sought to provide your Committee with all the information necessary to assess this proposal. We have also provided detailed information to the General Accounting Office and to other interested Members of Congress. I feel confident that your Committee has received virtually all the information provided to policy makers within the Executive Branch. I am, of course, prepared to join other Administration witnesses in presenting testimony to your Committee upon request.

Sincerely,



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JACOB K. JAVITS
NEW YORK

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 13, 1978

Dear Cy:

I received your note of April 11 explaining your scheduling problem.

I really believe that it is you who should appear before the Foreign Relations Committee. The two or three days respecting your return, to wit April 26 or April 28 and 29, is really not material. What is material is your authoritative presentation - and our response to the presentation - before the letters of offer are submitted.

Obviously, I am not going to get sticky about it, but I really do wish you had kept to the assurances you gave us. This is not meant to reflect on the Deputy Secretary or the other able officials of the Department of State. But, the fact remains that on an issue of this gravity and this degree of controversy, I continue to believe that the final consultation should have been between the Secretary of State and the Foreign Relations Committee.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Jake

Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520